finalised towards the end of preceding calendar year. The restructuring of the economy and the foreign trade responsibilities between the Union and the Republics of the Soviet Union has made the internal situation in the USSR fluid and uncertain. Efforts are, however, being made to finalise the 1992 trade protocol as soon as possible.

(c) The latest statistics indicating Indo-Soviet trade in 1991 as against the trade plan provisions are summarised below:-

(Rs. in Million)

	Trade Plan Provisions	*Actuals (Jan-September '91*)*
Exports	50810	28494
Imports	43300	18454

The DGCI&S provisional data is available only for the period Jan-September'91. As such the trade figures as on 10th November, 1991 are not yet available

European Community Investments

3637. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and the European Economic Community countries have signed an agreement for paving way towards promoting European Community investments in the country;

(b) if so, the main features of the agreement; and

(c) the time by which the agreement is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). Export Import Bank, Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India and Industrial Development Bank of India each have signed framework agreements with the European Community under the European Community International Investment partners Financial Institutions Scheme. Under these agreements European Community Investment in Joint Ventures in India will be channelised through these 3 financial institutions. These investments will be mainly in the small scale and medium scale sector.

Seniority to Ex-service Officers In Nationalised Banks

3638. SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received numerous representations regarding grant of seniority to Ex-Service Officers working in nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to extend seniority benefits to such Ex-Service Officers;

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard so far; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e). Banking Division in the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance had advised all the Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions. under its

administrative control, to grant ante-dated seniority and pay fixation benefits to other eligible ex-ECOs/SSCOs re-employed with them in terms of the provisions contained in para 6 of the Department of Personnel & Training notification No. /220/69-Estt (c), dated 26th August, 1971. All the Banks have extended such benefits to the eligible Ex-ECOs/SSCOs. However, the question whether such benefits to the eligible Ex-ECOs/SSCOs re-employed in the State Bank of India, should be in terms of para 6 (a) or 6 (b) of the said notification, is under examination by the Department of Personnel & Training.

[*Translation*]

Import of codeine Phosphate

3639. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Codeine Phosphate imported annually and the foreign exchange involved;

(b) the annual production of Codeine Phosphate in the country;

(c) whether the requirement of Codeine Phosphate can be met by indigenous production; and

(d) if so, the reasons for importing Codeine Phosphate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (d). The quantities of Codeine Phosphate imported and manufactured in the country during the last 5 years are as follows:

Year	*Quantity of Codeine Phosphate*	
	(Imported in Kgs.)	*Manufactured in the country (in Kgs.)*
1986-87	1000	4434
1987-88	4000	3500
1988-89	4000	5896
1989-90	9000	6716
1990-91	9000	7738

Codeine Phosphate is imported under barter deal in exchange for opium; there is no direct out-flow of foreign exchange.

Codeine Phosphate is manufactured from opium in the country at the two government Opium and Alkaloid Plants at Neemuch and Ghazipur. Capacities of the plants and their recovery efficiency of this product are the limiting factors in meeting the entire indigenous requirement of Codeine Phosphate.

[*English*]

Laser Guided Technology in DRDO

3640. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the defence Research and development Organisation has achieved a breakthrough in LASER guided Technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of other countries possessing this technology?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD POWER): (a) and (b). Defence